



John

Lesson 12 Chapter 12

After the raising of Lazarus in Chapter 11, Jesus and His disciples had to leave the area because of the threat from the religious leaders. They went to Ephraim (previously called Ophrah), a small town in the wilderness north of Bethany. Jesus continued His ministry in this area until He returned to Bethany six days before His final Passover. He is now entering into “passion week” which is the last week before His suffering on the cross. The next seven chapters of John cover the events of this final week.

As well as being the home of Lazarus and his family, Bethany was also the hometown of Simon the Leper whom Jesus had possibly healed. According to Mark, it was here that the banquet for Jesus was being held (Mark 14:3). At this celebration, Mary showed her true love and devotion for her Lord as well as her greater understanding of what was to come in the next days. His impending death was something even Jesus’ disciples couldn’t seem to grasp, and yet this simple woman was preparing Him for it (Mark 14:8). By Jesus’ declaration, this act of love was something she would be remembered for wherever the gospel would be preached (Mark 14:9).

The next day Jesus and His disciples head for Jerusalem. The Passover celebration

commemorated the deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt. Because of this and the many prophecies regarding Messiah’s deliverance of His people from their oppressors, there was always an air of expectancy during this feast time. Possibly because of the miracles and signs Jesus had been performing, the anticipation was even higher this year. As He enters Jerusalem many of His followers escort Him into the city with palm branches and shouts of rejoicing as they would a conquering king who had returned after a successful battle. The word “hosanna” means in Hebrew “save, we pray.” Here it was used more as a cry of praise than a prayer for help. The phrases in John 12:13 come from Psalm 118:26 which is part of the Hallel. The Hallel is a responsive prayer recited between the priest and the people from Psalm 113-118 during the Feast of Booths, Passover, and other holy days. The last day of the feast was called “the great hosanna,” and the boughs they used were also called “hosannas.” (Vines Dictionary). Many of Jesus’ followers probably expected this to be the time for deliverance, and they believed He was the awaited Messiah or deliverer. Little did they know their conquering King would suffer and die at the hands of their enemies in the next few days, and with the approval of the Jews themselves.

READ CHAPTER 12

READ MARK 14:3-9

1. *Compare and contrast the details of John 12:1-8 to Mark 14:3-9.*

2. *What might have been Mary's motivation for what she did? Explain.*

3. *According to Matthew 26:14-15 and Mark 14:10, what did Judas do immediately after Mary anointed Jesus? Do you think the incident with the perfume had anything to do with this?*

4. *Read Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:29-38 which are parallels to John 12:12-19. According to Matthew, why did Jesus enter Jerusalem this way?*

5. *According to John, who were the people in the crowd with Jesus? What do you think they were expecting Jesus to do next?*

6. *From John 12:20-26, what analogy did Jesus give in response to the Greeks who requested to see Him, and what do you think it meant?*

7. *What does Jesus say is the purpose for all that was about to happen to Him?*
8. *None of the references Christ makes to Himself in response to their questions about Him seem to make sense to these people. What does John say is the reason for this inability to understand?*
9. *Another response to Jesus was that many believed in Him, but they wouldn't confess their faith. Why did this happen? What does Scripture say about this response? Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 12:8-9.*
10. *What did Jesus mean by His statement in 47?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
